

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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Points Against Fulbright Studied

By Drew Pearson

President-elect Kennedy has had to do some difficult soul-searching regarding the qualifications of his friend, Sen. William Fulbright, of Arkansas, to be Secretary of State.

Along with the Senator's profound knowledge of foreign affairs, his great help to Kennedy during the campaign, and his standing with the Senate, Kennedy has had to weigh two serious political strikes against Fulbright.

Strike No. 1 is the fact that he comes from Arkansas and would be labeled by the Communist propaganda artists as the "Secretary of State from Little Rock." Actually Fulbright is not from Little Rock. But this would make no difference. All through Africa, with the new sensitive Negro republics, and all through Asia, even through Latin America with its Negroid-Indian population, Fulbright would have an important strike against him.

Actually Fulbright is no friend of Gov. Orval Faubus. Faubus might even try to defeat him for the Senate. But that makes no difference where the world propaganda mills are concerned.

Fulbright signed the Southern manifesto against the Supreme Court for its school in-



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tegration decision, also voted consistently against civil rights. And this is what will be used against him by the propaganda mills.

Kennedy has also had to consider the fact that American Negroes would bitterly resent Fulbright's appointment as Secretary of State, and the Negro vote went decisively for Kennedy all over the United States. Probably he could not have carried many southern states without it.

Arab Spokesman

Strike No. 2 is the position Fulbright has carved out as spokesman for the Arab bloc. Automatically this wins him the opposition of American Jewry, and the American Jewish vote went almost 90 per cent for Kennedy.

At first, Jewish voters were a bit skeptical about Kennedy, didn't like the neutralist position of his father when Ambassador to England. But when they saw Kennedy being hampered because of his religion, almost every Jewish community in the United States rallied to his support, raised money and campaigned for him. They were a decisive factor in his election.

This was called to Kennedy's attention by none other than his running mate, Lyndon Johnson, during their talk at LBJ's ranch. Johnson has a high regard for Fulbright, but he also knew firsthand, of Fulbright's battle on the Senate floor last May against a free-

dom of the seas amendment to the foreign aid bill favoring the passage of Israeli ships through the Suez Canal and also condemning the Arab boycott of vessels calling at Israeli ports.

The amendment, introduced by Senators Douglas of Illinois and Keating of New York, was aimed at withholding American aid to Colonel Nasser if he continued to refuse the transit of Israeli vessels or Israeli cargoes through Suez, despite a U. N. Security Council admonition to do so. It also aimed at countering the spreading Arab boycott of American vessels for calling at Israeli ports.

Fulbright, in attacking the amendment, angrily declared: "Why attack the Arabs if you are not going to accomplish anything by it—anything, that is, beyond the appeasement of certain uninformed minority groups in the United States."

This reference to the Jews as "uninformed minority groups" aroused great resentment. So did Fulbright's further insinuation that American Jews put Israel ahead of the United States. He said: "We have seen the rise of organizations dedicated apparently not to America, but to foreign states and groups."

Senator Johnson led the drive to defeat Fulbright, and did so by a heavy majority.

A few days after the vote, the Senate Foreign Relations Chairman flew to Egypt, and

the fact that he was enthusiastically received by Nasser, later made some complimentary statements about Nasser's operation of the Suez Canal, aroused further resentment among American Jews.

Man on Camel-Back

As a final climax, the Senator from Arkansas shortly thereafter appeared before the Middle East Institute, subsidized by American oil companies, where he was hailed as a hero.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency, May 20, 1960, reported this meeting as follows:

"State Department officers and oil company representatives applauded wildly as Arabs hailed Sen. Fulbright and denounced the American Jewish Community for alleged pressures.

"There is no pressure like Arab pressure and Chairman Fulbright of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is its prophet," added the telegraphic agency. "When Senator Fulbright condemned a 'pressure group' linked to alien interests, he referred to supporters of Israel. He ignored the real pressure group, the powerful Arab lobby, supported by the State Department, which has proclaimed him its man on camel-back."

Drew Pearson, on WTOP Radio at 6:45 p. m. Saturday, will reveal what the Secret Service complains about regarding President-elect Kennedy.

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